

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /125 W

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P 290951Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7260

CINCPAC HONOH

COMUSSAG NKPETHAI

S E C R E T SAIGON 9973

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJ: UPDATE ON SITUATION IN DUC DUC

FOLG SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO RVN FROM DANANG 28 JUL 74
REPEATED FOR YOU

QTE

S E C R E T DANANG 0320

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI VS

SUBJ: UPDATE ON SITUATION IN DUD DUC

REF: DANANG 0318

1. BASED UPON INFORMATION BRIEFED BY I CORPS TACTICAL OPERATIONS
CENTER, AS OF 0800 HRS JULY 28 THE MILITARY SITUATION IN
SOUTHERN DUC DUC DISTRICT, QUANG NAM PROVINCE, APPEARS TO
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HAVE BECOME LESS CRITICAL AND SEEMS TO HAVE STABILIZED SOME-

WHAT.

2. ALTHOUGH THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE CONGEN AT THIS TIME IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO WARRANT ANY DEFINITIVE JUDGEMENTS ON THE CURRENT FLOW OF BATTLE IN THE DUC DUC AREA, EARLIER SIGNS (REFTEL) THAT THE 2ND REG, 3RD DIV WAS LOSING ITS COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS AND WAS WITHDRAWING FROM THE AREA HAVE DISSIPATED SOMEWHAT. AS OF THE MORNING OF JULY 28TH THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE 2ND REG WAS REPORTEDLY MOVING TO PROVIDE FLANK SECURITY FOR THE 12 RANGER GROUP.

3. THE HQ OF THE 54TH REG, 1ST DIV, IS LOCATED AT BT064583 (DIEN BAN DISTRICT HQ). AT 1700 HRS JULY 26 THE 2ND AND 3RD BATTALIONS LAUNCHED AN OPERATION FROM AT992572 AND AT993560 AGAINST SUSPECTED COMMUNIST POSITIONS NORTH OF THE THU BON RIVER. THE NIGHT OF JULY 26 AND THE MORNING OF JULY 27 THESE ELEMENTS OF THE 54TH REG REPORTED HEAVY CONTACT AND INABILITY TO MOVE FORWARD. THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 27 THE 2ND AND 3RD BATTALIONS REPORTED MODEST PROGRESS. THEIR LOCATIONS THE EARLY MORNING OF JULY 28 WERE: 2ND BATTALION AT980575; 3RD BATTALION, AT983563. THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE 54TH REG ARRIVED IN QUANG NAM PROVINCE THE NIGHT OF JULY 26TH AND IS CURRENTLY DEPLOYED AT AT956636, IN WESTERN DIEN BAN DISTRICT, IN THE DANANG "ROCKET BELT".

4. THE 12TH RANGER GROUP ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE 2ND REG OF THE 3RD DIVISION'S AREA OF OPERATION THE EVENING OF JULY 26. THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 27 THE 3RD DIVISION'S CHIEF OF STAFF TOLD A CONGEN REP THAT THE 12TH RANGER GROUP HAD MADE NO CONTACT BECAUSE THEY HAD MOVED VERY SLOWLY. HE SAID THAT MG NGUYEN DUY HINH, THE 3RD DIV CO, WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE 12TH RANGER GROUP'S SLOW MOVEMENT AND HAD ORDERED THE RANGERS TO MOVE MORE RAPIDLY. THE MORNING OF JULY 28 THE 12TH RANGER GROUP POSITIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS: 21ST BATTALION COMMAND POST, AT 904455, WITH THE MOST FORWARD ELEMENT LOCATED AT AT9145; THE 37TH BATTALION'S COMMAND POST, AT872457, WITH ITS MOST FORWARD ELEMENT LOCATED AT AT 8743. THE 39TH BATTALION REMAINS IN RESERVE AT AT870465.

5. ON JULY 26TH THE 2ND REG, 3RD DIV, MOVED TO THE REAR OF THE
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12TH RANGER GROUP AND AT 1200 HRS ON JULY 27TH ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AREA SOUTH OF DAI LOC. THE MORNING OF JULY 28TH THE 2ND REG LOCATIONS WERE AS FOLLOWS: 1ST BATTALION, AT873557; 2ND BATTALION, AT884570; AND THE 3RD BATTALION, AT879577. THE 2ND REG COMMAND POST IS LOCATED AT DAI LOC. THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE 3RD DIV TOLD A CONGEN REP JULY 28TH THAT THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 2ND REG HAS BEEN ORDERED TO MOVE SOUTH INTO THE AT8447

AREA TO PROVIDE FLANK SECURITY FOR THE 12TH RANGER GROUP.
THE 2ND BATTALION OF THE 56TH REG REG WAS DEPLOYED IN THE
AT9552 AREA. ON JULY 27TH THE 1ST BATTALION OF THE 56TH REG
MOVED FROM THE DAI LOC AREA TO AT921538. THE 3RD BATTALION
OF THE 56 REG IS IN THE PROGRESS OF REGROUPING AT THE 3RD
DIVISION'S TRAINING CENTER NEAR DANANG AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE
DEPLOYED WITH THE 56TH REG ON AUGUST 1ST OR 2ND.
POPPL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, COMBAT OPERATIONS, COMBAT ZONES, COMBAT CASUALTIES, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON09973
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740205-0259
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974079/aaaaahoq.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DANANG 0318
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPDATE ON SITUATION IN DUC DUC FOLG SENT ACTION SAIGON INFO DAO RVN FROM DANANG 28 JUL 74
TAGS: MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005